

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 407
By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to honor Mary Katherine Brooks, 1996 Co-Salutatorian of Smith County High School.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly honor those individuals who through their natural talents and unflagging commitment have achieved excellence in their academic careers; and

WHEREAS, Mary Katherine Brooks is such an outstanding student who has distinguished herself as co-salutatorian of the 1996 class at Smith County High School; and

WHEREAS, through long hours of diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and untiring commitment of time and talent, Miss Brooks has achieved extraordinary academic success, and has joined the ranks of the elite students of Tennessee and our nation; and

WHEREAS, in her laudable high school career, Miss Brooks has earned an exceptional 4.39 grade point average; and

WHEREAS, Mary Katherine has been an active participant in a number of extracurricular activities including the Beta Club, serving as reporter; Students Against Drunk Driving, serving as secretary and homecoming parade representative; the Environmental Club; the school annual staff, serving as photographer, advertising editor and assistant editor; the Science and Math Club, serving as vice-president; the foreign language club, serving as reporter; Future Business Leader of America; and the Library Club, serving as president; and

WHEREAS, she has devoted her time and talents as an active member of the 4-H Club; she is both a 4-H All-Star and Honor Club member; she has been the distinguished recipient of

some of the highest 4-H state awards and many other 4-H leadership, citizenship and public speaking awards; and

WHEREAS, a gifted musician, Miss Brooks has been a member of the “Pride of the Upper Cumberland” Marching Band and the concert and pep bands for four years; she has served her fellow musicians well as field commander, marched in the 41st Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C., served as the SCHS homecoming pianist, and was selected to attend the Festival of Winds and Percussion at Tennessee Technological University for three years; and

WHEREAS, she has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades of which even a brief list is inspiring; she has been listed in Who’s Who Among American High School Students for four years; she was chosen to attend the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Sciences and was Smith County’s first Governor’s School exchange student in Russia; she has received school honors in English for three years and was awarded the National Merit English Award her junior year; she received third place and the NASA award at the Cumberland Plateau Regional Science Fair; she won third place in the district VFW oratorical contest and second place in the Ladies Auxiliary district essay contest; and she was awarded a scholarship to the National Youth Leadership Conference and was inducted into the National Honor Roll Association her sophomore year; and

WHEREAS, Miss Brooks has been selected to take part in a number of conferences and programs including the Career Equity program at Tennessee Tech and Tennessee Business Week at Belmont University, where she was elected chief CEO and won the Quality Award as well as third place in the “Starting A Business” competition; and

WHEREAS, despite the demands on her time, Mary Katherine Brooks has been a valuable four year member of the school’s golf team, placing each year in competition at the district and regional levels; and

WHEREAS, Mary Katherine is a devout member of North Carthage Baptist Church, where she serves her Sunday school class as secretary; and

WHEREAS, her display of intellectual prowess and inner drive surely bodes well for her future success as she pursues a degree in international business; she is currently a nominee for Vanderbilt's Ingram Scholars Program and the Whittle Scholarship at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Miss Brooks' noteworthy achievements are a great source of pride for her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Brooks of Tanglewood and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Brooks of Carthage and Mr. and Mrs. Billy Beech of Lewisburg, her school, and her community; and

WHEREAS, Miss Brooks's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and honor Mary Katherine Brooks 1996 Smith County High School Co-Salutatorian, on her impressive academic achievement and school and community involvement, and extend to her our best wishes for a happy successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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